

Legislative Changes for Mandated Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Do Not Apply to EMS Personnel

Recently, the Department of Social Services distributed a memorandum related to mandated reporters of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. The memo, dated January 2005 indicated actions taken during the 2004 session of the Virginia General Assembly resulted in additional reporting requirements for persons responsible to report suspected child abuse or neglect cases.

It has been brought to our attention that a number of EMS agencies in Virginia received this memorandum and were told erroneously that they are mandated reporters and must comply with these new reporting requirements.

Ms. Rita Katzman, Program Manager for Child and Adult Protective Services re-affirmed that EMS providers are **NOT** mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect cases. A separate memorandum from the Department of Social Services addressed to “Mandated Reporters and Interested Parties” should be forthcoming to clarify this confusion.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Michael D. Berg, Manager, Regulation and Compliance by E-mail at michael.berg@vdh.virginia.gov.